

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-56 remain in the application for further prosecution. Claim 56 has been amended. Claim 56 corresponds to claim 4 rewritten in independent form. The Applicant thanks the Examiner for allowance of claim 14 and 16.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the arguments made in the previous response, filed on August 27, 2004. For simplicity, the Applicants will re-iterate those arguments below:

### **§ 102(b) Rejection**

Claims 1,3, 6-8, 9, 10, 13, 17, 19, 22-24, 25-27, 29-33, 35, 36, 37-40, 42-47, 49, 50, and 51-53 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Floyd, Jr. (of record) for reasons of record. Floyd is directed to a connection means for a waveguide that includes a clamping member 30 and a flange member 21. The clamping member 30 includes a flange 37 that is adapted to be disposed within an opening of the clamping member 30. Column 4, lines 6-24. Floyd does not disclose a plurality of different flange members or a clamping member that has a flange coupling interface configured to mate with any of the different standard flange interfaces.

Independent claims 1 and 17 are directed to a system and an assembly, respectively, that positively recite a library of flanges. As stated in the previous response, claims also include the limitation that a single flange is chosen from this library and that the flange coupling interface of the adaptor must be configured to mate with any of the standard flange interfaces in the library. Floyd, by its teaching of a single flange, does not disclose a flange coupling interface that is

capable of mating with different flanges. Thus, for at least this reason, these independent claims and the claims which depend from them are now believed to be allowable over Floyd.

Independent claim 9 recites a waveguide adaptor that includes a flange coupling interface that "is configured to mate with any of said different standard flange interfaces." Floyd does not disclose such an adaptor. Floyd discloses an adaptor that is configured to mate with only one flange interface, not any of a plurality of flange interfaces. The Examiner states that in the final product, the adaptor only mates with a single flange interface, and for this reason, the interface is disclosed by Floyd. The Applicants respectfully disagree. The final product is of an adaptor that is configured to mate with a plurality of flange interfaces. Despite the Examiner's argument that only one interface is mated at a time, the adaptor of claim 9 is structurally different than what is disclosed in Floyd. For at least this reason, claim 9 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Floyd.

Independent claims 25 and 51 are directed to a system and a method, respectively. Each include the limitation that each of a plurality of waveguide flanges have a generally common internal mating configuration. Floyd does not teach such a limitation, since Floyd is directed to only a single flange. For at least this reason, claims 25 and 51 are believed to be allowable.

Independent claim 37 is directed to a flange adaptor assembly that has an outer surface is adapted to engage the generally common internal mating configuration of the waveguide flanges. As stated above in reference to claim 9, Floyd does not disclose an adaptor that is configured to engage a common internal mating configuration of a plurality of waveguide flanges. Floyd only discloses that an adaptor includes a surface that is adapted to a particular surface of one waveguide flange. Contrary to the Examiner's argument that the final product is the same, the

adaptor of claim 37 is structurally distinct from the adaptor disclosed in Floyd. For at least this reason, claim 37 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over Floyd.

### **§ 103(a) Rejection**

Claims 28 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Floyd, Jr. in view of Saad ('959), both of record of reasons of record.

Dependent claims 28 and 41 ultimately depend from independent claims 25 and 37. Therefore, these claims include the limitation that "the outer surface is adapted to engage said generally common internal mating configuration of said waveguide flanges." As stated above, in reference to these independent claims, Floyd does not disclose such a limitation. Saad does not teach or suggest such a limitation. For at least this reason, dependent claims 28 and 41 are believed to be allowable over the combination of Floyd and Saad.

### **Conclusion**

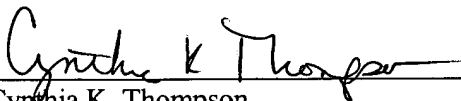
It is the Applicants' belief that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance and action towards that effect is respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/056,679  
Amendment and Response to Advisory Action dated October 25, 2004  
Advisory Action Dated September 28, 2004

If there are any matters which may be resolved or clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number indicated.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 25, 2004

  
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